GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:880
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2008
WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has taken a decision regarding livelihood of the farmers and food security;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has proposed any action plan in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the schemes which have been implemented on the said issues; and

(f) the total expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years including the current year, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) : Multilateral negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) under the Doha Round are presently underway. In terms of the mandate of this Round, developing country members can self-designate Special Products (SPs) guided by indicators based on the criteria of food security, livelihood security and rural development. The SPs will enjoy less tariff reductions then the other products, which will be subjected to the normal formula based tariff reductions.

(c) to (f) : Besides several on-going initiatives, the Government has undertaken several new initiatives to address the food and livelihood security concerns of our farmers. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Food Security Mission was launched to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes respectively by the end of the XI Five Year Plan period. One of the major aims of the Mission is the enhancement of productivity and production of foodgrains for food security. Besides, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana has also been launched by the Ministry of Agriculture with an outlay of Rs. 25, 000 crores during the XI Five Year Plan. The Government has also approved the National Policy for Farmers 2007 for a holistic approach for developing the farm sector. An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been set up to operationalize the implementation of the policy. Besides, a comprehensive scheme of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers has been announced in the Union Budget 2008-09.